

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /054 W

-----118978 120210Z /41

R 111705Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4155

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA-DSAA//

DA WASHDC//DALO-ILM//

CDR USASAC ALEX VA//DRSAC-WM/AF//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7-SAO//

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MO

SUBJECT: 105MM TANK AMMUNITION

REF: (A) 77 STATE 277521 (NOTAL), (B) CHMUSLO 010855Z DEC 77
(NOTAL), (C) CHMUSLO 130946Z DEC 77 (NOTAL), (D) USASAC
052023Z JAN 77 (NOTAL)

1. (U) REFTTEL A INDICATED THAT THE HIGH EXPLOSIVE PLASTIC
ROUNDS (HEP-T, C518) COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY TO
MOROCCO IN FALL 1978; BUT THAT HIGH EXPLOSIVE ANTITANK ROUNDS
(HEAT-T, C508) COULD NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL EARLY 1980.
SINCE 1980 APPEARED AN UNREASONABLE DELAY, REFTTELS B AND C
REQUESTED WHETHER THE HEAT-T ROUNDS REMAINING ON THE CONTRACT
COULD BE REPLACED BY HEP-T ROUNDS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MOROCCO
WITH ADDITIONAL TANK-KILLING ROUNDS BY FALL 1980. REFTTEL D
CONFIRMED AVAILABILITY OF HEP-T IN FALL 78, ADVISED THAT
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DIVERSION AUTHORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED
FOR SUBSTITUTION AS PROPOSED BY REFTTELS B AND C, BUT RECOMMENDED
AGAINST THE SUBSTITUTION. REFTTEL D ALSO STATED THAT P & A
DATA FOR HEP-T WOULD BE PROVIDED ABOUT 15 FEB 78.

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2. (C) CONSIDERING THE SHORT RUN, THE NOVEMBER 1977 DELIVERY
OF 510 ROUNDS APDS-T AVERTED AN IMMEDIATE, SERIOUS POLITICAL
PROBLEM. PRESENT SITUATION MEANS, HOWEVER, THAT WE CANNOT GIVE
GOM ANY MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON THE MAJOR SHARE (1410
ROUNDS) REMAINING ON A PRINCIPAL AMMUNITION CONTRACT UNTIL
MID-FEBRUARY 1978.

3. (C) CONSIDERING THE INTERMEDIATE TERM, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SUFFICIENT TIME HAS NOW PASSED FOR THE USG TO BE ABLE TO INFORM THE GOM HOW WE PLAN TO FULFILL OUR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION. THE BASIC PROBLEM HAS BEEN RECEIVING HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION HERE SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER 1977. IF WE CONTINUE TO DELAY ON THIS QUESTION, THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE POSED AGAIN IN POLITICAL TERMS.

4. (C) URGENTLY REQUEST EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. TIMELY DELIVERY OF TANK-KILLING ROUNDS REMAINING ON CONTRACT UHE IS VIEWED HERE AS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN.

5. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. HEAT-T, C508 - WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS HIGH EXPLOSIVE ANTITANK ROUND IS THE U.S. ARMY'S PRINCIPAL GENERAL PURPOSE TANK ROUND, AND CAN DEFEAT ANY KNOWN ARMOR. CONTRACT UHE HAD 1680 ROUNDS ON ORDER, OF WHICH 1410 REMAIN OUTSTANDING DUE TO SUBSTITUTION OF 270 ROUNDS OF TP-T (DELIVERED NOV 77).

B. HEP-T, C-518 - WE UNDERSTAND THAT HIGH EXPLOSIVE PLASTIC IS PREFERRED BY THE BRITISH ARMY (WHO CALL IT "SQUASH HEAD") AS TANK-KILLING AMMO. CONTRACT UHE HAD 450 ROUNDS ON ORDER, OF
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WHICH NONE REMAIN OUTSTANDING DUE TO SUBSTITUTION OF 510 ROUNDS APDS-T (DELIVERED NOV 77).

C. APDS-T, C505 - WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARMOR PIERCING DISCARDING SABOT IS THE U.S. ARMY'S PREFERRED TANK-KILLING ROUND. CONTRACT UHE HAD NONE ON ORDER. FIVE HUNDRED TEN ROUNDS WERE DELIVERED TO MOROCCO IN NOV 77 AS AN INTERIM MEASURE; THESE ROUNDS SUBSTITUTED FOR THE 450 ROUNDS HEP-T ON CONTRACT.

D. TP-T, C511 - TARGET PRACTICE (TRAINING). CONTRACT UHE HAD NONE ON ORDER. TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY ROUNDS WERE DELIVERED IN NOV 77 AND THESE SUBSTITUTED FOR AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HEAT-T ROUNDS.
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